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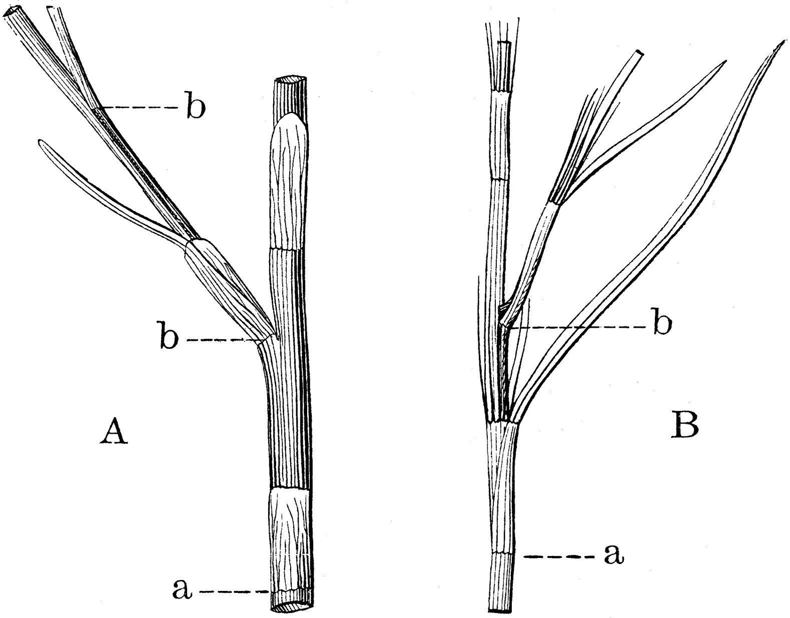
one species of *Thysanella* and in all the species of *Polygonella* the branching is not nodal, but internodal.



The internodal branching is brought about by the adnation of a secondary axis to a primary axis for a greater or less distance above a secondary node, usually about one-half the distance from node to node. The true condition is more plainly shown in *Thysanella*, where the union of the two axes is not as complete as in *Polygonella*, a shallow but usually distinct groove showing the place of union.

Explanation of the Figure.

A. *Polygonella Americana* (F. & M.) Small.
B. *Thysanella fimbriata* (Ell.) A. Gray.
a. Nodes.
b. Point where the adnate axis diverges.

A Plant Catapult.

In the process of enlarging the College seed collection a quart or so of the pods of the Chinese Wistaria were recently brought into the laboratory for their seeds. Some of the pods, that might be easily mistaken for the fingers of a soiled buckskin mitten, were placed upon a radiator to dry while others were deposited upon a table near by. Some were hung in my son's sleeping room to note the effect upon a young person unversed in the methods of plant dissemination. Upon the third day the pods upon the laboratory radiator began their bombardment. The first shot provoked surprised in a person in a adjoining room, the report being in volume not unlike that made by a Fourth of July toy pistol. In a few minutes the first shot was followed by a second and the pieces of the horny pod were seen to rise for several inches, while the large seeds hit the high ceiling with considerable force. A third pod was taken to the middle of the room and watched for an explosion. Within five minutes the efforts were rewarded by first a low snap, followed quickly by a high somersault of the pod and the expulsion of the seeds to a vertical and lateral distance of ten feet. Of the four seeds only two were recovered, the others being lost among papers and books not far away. In another instance the seed was flung from a pod with such force as to strike the window, producing a sharp sound as if a small stone had been thrown against the pane. If the window had been open the seed would have reached the side of a neighboring building fifteen feet away.

It is an easy matter to cause the dry Wistaria pods to explode by holding by the stem end and bringing them down with a sharp tap upon one of the two edges. The pods open uniformly by the ventral suture, and if the pod is struck by this edge the seeds do not fly out so readily, but by reversing the edges they are flung upward, and may rise to the height of many feet.

One of the pods " popped " in my boy's room just as the lad was awaking in the morning, and drew from him the remark that he was " scared awful." He also said that " if those things were made to hold seeds they were not of much use."

These statements are repeated here to enforce the fact that the noise made by the Wistaria seed-pods may be positively alarming in the quiet of the early dawn to an unsuspecting child. Older persons, still earlier in the morning, might experience a surprise should one of these spring traps fly open with its attendant sharp cracking sound.

The pods average from four to six inches long, bearing two, three and four seeds, which are flat upon one side and convex upon the other and a half-inch in diameter. The wall of the pod is quite thick and develops in drying a remarkable degree of tension. Other members of the Leguminosae are noted for their casting of the seeds; but the undersigned has observed nothing that will compare in volume of sound or of projection distance with the Wistaria. BYRON D. HALSTED.

DECEMBER 9, 1896.

Notes upon Maine Plants.

BY F. L. HARVEY.

The following Maine plants were detected during the past season. Several are not recorded in Fernald's Catalogue or Supplement. Some are added for locality.

Anemone cylindrica Gray. Pastures, E. Auburn, Me., une, 1896. E. D. Merrill.

Cardamine Pennsylvanica Muhl. Rocky hillsides at the base of a shaded cliff. Abundant. Growing as though native, E. Auburn, June to Oct., 1896. E. D. Merrill.

Silene nivea Otth. Bank of the Stillwater River near Orono, Me., on a north hillside. The patch was nearly a rod square. July, 1896. F. L. Harvey.

Koellia flexuosa (Walt.) MacM. (*Pycnanthemum linifolium* Pursh). Field, Brownfield, Me., August, 1896. E. D. Merrill.

Stachys palustris L. This was excluded from the Maine Flora by Mr. Fernald, as no station was known. Growing abundantly on the islands of Penobscot Bay. Two Bush Island, F. L. Harvey; Pond Island, O. W. Knight, August, 1896.

Polygonum lapathifolium nodosum (Pers.) Small. Waste places, E. Auburn, E. D. Merrill. We also found this at Jackman last season.

Polygonum littorale Link. Waste places, Orono, Me., 1896. O. W. Knight.

Galinsoga parviflora Cav. A single robust specimen growing near a garden in E. Auburn. E. D. Merrill.